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11 September 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, Current Intelligence
SUBJECT Meeting of Current Publications Working Group

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1. The group, consisting of Mr. Davis of State, [redacted] of DIA, and myself, held its first meeting on 10 September. We agreed on an agenda as follows:

a. Changes in the legend of the Central Intelligence Bulletin;

b. Review of procedures in the production of the CIB;

c. Review of the dissemination of current intelligence publications in relation to the sensitivity of information contained therein;

d. Production of a high-level supplement to the CIB. (To be considered jointly with item c.)

There was some exploratory discussion of each of these items.

2. A tentative revised text for the CIB legend was worked out and is attached at annex.

3. The following topics were suggested for consideration under the review of procedures:

a. The criteria used in selection of CIB items. CIA agreed to present a statement of those now used as a basis for the group's discussion.

b. The criteria for the use of the asterisk. There was considerable discussion here on the problems raised by the use of the asterisk on items which could

have been the subject of consultation. We agreed that, while there is no absolute solution to this problem, the situation can be improved. State agreed, both for this purpose and to aid in selection of items, to provide CIA each morning with a list of items it selects for its daily briefing of senior Department officials. CIA agreed to examine its own way of doing business in an effort to circulate drafts earlier in the day. CIA also agreed to present a statement of criteria determining the use of the asterisk. The group decided to consider the propriety of using the asterisk to denote lack of consultation for other reasons than time, i.e., the case in which a participating agency neither concurs nor dissents.

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c. State asked that an effort be made to tag items of COMINT used in the CIB. CIA stated that it is existing policy to identify all use of COMINT [REDACTED] and that the producing analysts would be reminded of this.

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4. Finally, I made a brief and general presentation of CIA's position on the last two agenda items. I said that we believed that function of the CIB had gradually been extended from serving the President and the NSC to providing a daily current briefing for a wider range of officials and that as a result we felt it was not able to do either of these necessary jobs well. We were restrained from using some sensitive materials by our knowledge that the CIB received a wide dissemination, especially telegraphically. We were concerned that even more restraints might be applied as knowledge of CIB dissemination became more widespread. Such restraints did a disservice to our high-level readers, who should have priority.


5. I then presented a proposed solution to this problem. CIA would produce, as much as possible under the same procedures as the CIB itself, a supplement to the CIB designed for the high-level reader. Certain categories of sensitive information would be used in this supplement only, and their use would be prohibited in any other current intelligence publication. The supplement would have no telegraphic dissemination and no working-level dissemination in Washington. The CIB proper, supplemented as desirable by

the DIA Summary, would then be defined as the daily current briefing for senior US officials world-wide. I emphasized that the purpose here was not to restrict any agency from passing to its officials in Washington or in the field any sensitive information required for their missions, but rather to restrict the broadside dissemination of such materials to a wide range of people who have no need for it. At the same time, through the device of a supplement, we could provide better and more complete service for the President and the National Security Council.

6. We agreed to discuss this problem in detail at our next meeting. CIA and DIA are to furnish, as soon as they can conveniently do so, hard copy and telegraphic distribution lists for their daily publications.


7. Our next meeting will be on 18 September.

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Assistant for Special Projects
Current Intelligence

Attachment: Annex

Distribution:

Orig & 1 - Addressee
1 - DD/I
1 - Mr. Davis
1 - 
1 - ASP Chrono
1 - CIA/DIA Pub File

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ANNEX

The Central Intelligence Bulletin is produced by the Director of Central Intelligence to meet the responsibilities assigned to the Central Intelligence Agency by the National Security Council for the provision to the President, the National Security Council, and other senior government officials of current intelligence bearing on issues of national security. It is produced by CIA, normally in consultation with the Departments of State and Defense. When adequate consultation is not feasible, items or portions thereof will be produced by CIA and marked with an asterisk.

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